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WTA Applauds House Letter to Chairman Wheeler on Set Top Box

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 31, 2016) – WTA--Advocates for Rural Broadband applauds the effort to bring attention to the affects the FCC's set top box proposal will have on small pay-TV providers and their customers. WTA also thanks Representative Kevin Cramer for his leadership in building a bipartisan coalition in opposition to the FCC's proposal, which threatens the continued operations of many small pay-TV providers and is likely to generate higher costs and few, if any, real benefits considering ongoing innovation in the video marketplace.

"It's not often you see content providers, distributors, economists, Republicans, and Democrats all aligned against a proposal from the FCC," said Derrick Owens, WTA's Vice President of Government Affairs. "Providers large and small are relentlessly looking for ways to meet their customers' changing needs without the need for an additional regulatory mandate that will only increase the cost of pay-TV service and decrease competition in the traditional video market. Just in the last month we've seen numerous announcements of innovative services to provide consumers with video content. Given that the marketplace and consumer demand is already pushing pay-TV providers to innovate, additional regulatory pressures or mandates will only increase uncertainty and cost, particularly for small providers, while stifling consumer-driven innovation," said Owens.

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WTA represents more than 300 small, rural telecommunications carriers providing voice, data and video-related services in the United States. WTA's members serve some of the most rural and hard-to-serve communities in the country and are on the forefront of bringing 21st Century telecommunications services to rural America. To learn more about WTA, visit www.w-t-a.org.